

My name is Lesley Wensley.

I would like to comment on the Recreation Ground proposed option

I request that my 3 minute slot be minuted.

Parishioners have supplied compelling evidence and views regarding the Rec, including:

- A parish petition of 268 signatures against any fence.
- Comprehensive evidence that dog fouling is not the problem on Rec.

Cllr Cantlon recognised this and recommended the Status Quo and sweeping for the Rec in the November meeting.

Astonishingly, all the evidence and Cllr Cantlon's Working Party recommendation have been completely ignored by the Parish Council.

The Council's own apparently clandestine Option 3 has now been published headed 'dog control' and prohibiting dogs from the football pitch. Given the previous evidence, this is clearly a biased anti dog agenda. There was no consultation regarding this option and it did not emanate from the Working Party as falsely claimed.

To imagine that there is no fence under the latest option is delusional since a red line monitored by surveillance cameras with officers patrolling would be more akin to a war zone than a village recreation field. Unbelievably, a resident has already been apprehended.

It is also apparent that one dog straying across the dreaded red line would be sufficient evidence to erect a hard fence in one year's time. This would be inevitable as the proposal has been deliberately framed with this objective. The Council Chairman has actually spoken of taking draconian measures.

Whilst no-one has an issue with the Football Club and its use of the recreation ground, it is bewildering that the club can wield so much influence on the field's usage when only less than a handful of footballers actually live in the village and the pitch is used on average for approximately 4 hours per week during the football season. This compared with the many parishioners using the field daily for their recreation, much of which includes exercising their dogs.

Parishioners views have been voiced several times and most recently at the Parish Meeting in large numbers.

I therefore urge Councillors to perform your public duty and represent the views of these parishioners rather than being influenced by a few individuals pursuing a personal agenda.